

Quid Novi

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UNIVERSITE MCGILL FACULTE DE DROIT

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LE RETOUR DU QUID!

par Jean-Philippe Gervais, rédacteur-
en-chef/editor-in-chief

Du plus loin que je me souviens, le retour en classes a évoqué chez moi des sentiments ambigus, la nostalgie des journées ensoleillées de juillet se confondant au plaisir presque enfantin de découvrir de nouveaux visages aux côtés d'amis envolés avec le début des vacances. Ce premier exemplaire de l'édition 1991-92 du Quid Novi se veut donc l'expression de ces émotions, et si certaines tendances nouvelles, aujourd'hui à peine esquissées, seront appelées à se préciser au fil des parutions, vous remarquerez toutefois la présence dans les pages qui suivent de quatre articles publiés à l'origine l'année dernière, mais dont la qualité d'écriture et l'intérêt du sujet servent de parfaits exemples du type de lecture que nous espérons pouvoir vous offrir pour l'année qui commence.

Un certain nombre de modifications sont en effet prévues sur le plan du contenu, dont entre autres une couverture plus complète de la vie culturelle montréalaise et une série de reportages sur la «face cachée» de la ville et de ses habitants. Une attention particulière sera également accordée aux gens et aux événements qui marquent la vie quotidienne de la faculté, et des démarches seront faites pour s'assurer que l'humour soit au rendez-vous le plus souvent possible. Enfin, une présence accrue du comité de rédaction en page éditoriale visera à susciter la réflexion à propos de questions d'actualité, tandis

que l'information, toujours au premier rang de nos préoccupations, conservera sa place privilégiée dans nos pages afin de vous maintenir au courant des divers événements et manifestations se déroulant à la faculté. Quelques parutions spéciales, dont la date de publication reste à déterminer, souligneront par ailleurs périodiquement l'un de ces aspects du contenu du Quid Novi.

À cette redéfinition des lignes directrices au niveau du contenu s'ajoute cette année la restructuration du comité de rédaction. Comme vous pourrez le constatez, les responsabilités de chacun y ont été précisées, et nous espérons de cette façon parvenir à élaborer pour le Quid une politique éditoriale cohérente, en plus d'améliorer son fonctionnement quotidien.

Finalement, je tiens également à mentionner que nos bureaux sont maintenant situés à la même adresse que la Revue de droit, soit au 3661 Peel, juste de l'autre côté de la rue. Le processus de soumission demeure toutefois le même, et toute contribution devrait être laissée à notre attention dans notre casier postal au bureau de l'AED. Je profite d'ailleurs de cette occasion pour vous signaler que la date de tombée pour toute l'année sera le lundi à 13h00, pour publication le lundi suivant.

En terminant, je vous invite donc tous, professeurs comme étudiants, à contribuer à assurer la diversité et la qualité du Quid pour l'année qui vient.

L'été qui s'achève a été témoin de bouleversements profonds de l'ordre mondial, et l'année académique qui débute aujourd'hui devrait également être décisive pour l'avenir du Canada en tant que pays. Le rythme accéléré de ces transformations implique des choix éditoriaux plus difficiles qu'auparavant. C'est dans cette optique que nous avons entrepris une redéfinition des objectifs du journal et du rôle du comité de rédaction. Mais ces changements ne veulent rien dire sans votre collaboration. La liberté dans la pensée, la qualité dans l'écriture, et toujours l'originalité dans le ton, voilà les principes directeurs autour desquels entend s'articuler le Quid Novi en 1991-92.

Au nom de toute l'équipe éditoriale, je vous souhaite donc la bienvenue à la faculté et aux pages du Quid Novi. L'année qui commence devrait s'avérer excitante. Nous espérons que contribuerez avec nous à la rendre également amusante et intéressante.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS ANNONCES

LAW BOOKSTORE - JOIN US!!! We need your help to make the bookstore run smoothly. Please come and sign up at the bookstore. A few hours is all we need. First-year students (and others): We will soon be having our first bookstore committee meeting. This is your chance to get involved. **HOURS:** Sept. 3-6: Tues.-Fri.: 8h00 - 16h30; Sept. 9-13: Mon.: 10h30-13h30; Tues.: 8h00-14h30; Wed.: 10h30-13h30; Thurs.: 13h00-16h00; Fri.: 8h00-13h30.

STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICE - Welcome to all of you! You will find all kinds of interesting information on the Notice Boards. Do consult them. Here are some examples: Board #2: Timetable and changes; class cancellations. Board #3: Deletion of students from oversubscribed courses. Assignment of lockers: A listing will be posted on the Notice Board in the cafeteria. Course Change Period: Tuesday, Sept. 3 - Sunday, Sept. 15. Additions and/or deletions can only be done through MARS. For details please consult pages 7 and 8 of the Early Registration Materials. This information will, as well, be posted on various notice boards in the Faculty.

SOCIAL/SPORTS COMMITTEE - To all new and returning students: On behalf of the Social and Sports Committees: Welcome! A very wild and fun year is ahead and you are strongly encouraged to join our teams. These are two committees which can never have too many members. So, help us ensure everyone keeps a smile by either staying fit through various team sports... or partying a whole lot! Sign up sheets are still up near the lounge or grab Jonathan Burnham or myself anytime in the halls!!! Véronique Malka.

TO ALL 1990-91 TUTORIAL LEADERS - If you would like to see your evaluations please contact Julia Hanigsberg (rm. 52 OCDH, ext. 5372) before Friday Sept. 13th. After that they will be thrown out.

LEGAL AID CLINIC/CLINIQUE D'INFORMATION JURIDIQUE - The McGill Legal Information Clinic needs volunteers who have previously worked in the Clinic to help out during the period between Sept. 3-18 from 12-2 pm, Mon-Fri. If interested, please call 398-6792 and leave your name, number, and what time(s) you are available. Toute personne intéressée à donner deux heures par semaine d'information juridique pendant la session d'automne doit venir à la SESSION D'INFORMATION mardi le 10 septembre à 12h30 au Common Room.

FORUM NATIONAL - We are an on-campus club organised by and made up of law students from all years. National Forum et ses membres invitent des conférenciers pendant l'année scolaire

d'aborder divers domaines relatifs au droit. On y encourage la participation des étudiants ainsi que les débats. De plus, Forum National donne une occasion aux étudiants de s'impliquer dans des activités «non-académiques» et de rencontrer d'autres étudiant(e)s. We had a very successful year in 1990-91 with over 8 speakers attracting large numbers of students and faculty members, and we look forward to having another successful year with your participation! Si vous êtes intéressés par notre groupe et par l'occasion d'organiser des conférences, impliquez-vous!!! Vous y ferez des rencontres très intéressantes! Keep an eye out for us on Clubs Day and notices regarding our 1st meeting! Bryan Haynes (LLB II), Secretary.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION - L'Association de droit de l'environnement de McGill réunit les étudiants en droit qui s'intéressent au problème de la détérioration de l'environnement. L'an dernier, nous avons organisé un colloque intitulé «Défis politiques et juridiques: comment vivre une ère environnementale» auquel ont participé des représentants des autochtones, des universités, et de professions diverses. Il y a eu un débat sur le développement de la Baie James. Nous avons mis sur pied un comité qui s'occupe de la question des politiques environnementales à l'intérieur de la faculté. Thus, for example, we are now selling reusable beer mugs which entitle you to a discount at coffee houses. We are also working on such ideas as establishing an environmental legal-aid service and improving the recycling system at McGill. All interested persons are welcome!

INTERNATIONAL LAW SOCIETY - The McGill International Law Society has as its objective to stimulate interest in, and raise awareness of, international issues and their legal dimensions. In recent years, we have invited speakers from Switzerland, the European Community, and the Canadian Department of External Affairs to speak on such topics as European integration, the unification of Germany, and the international control of terrorism. We are always looking for people with new ideas for speakers and seminars, and we encourage anyone with an interest in any area of international law and international relations to join us and participate in one of the most exciting groups on campus.

FACULTY COUNCIL LIBRARY COMMITTEE - This committee is composed of the chief librarian, Pat Young, several faculty members, and two student representatives - one from the graduate level and one from undergraduate. The group acts in a purely advisory capacity, culling suggestions and concerns voiced by students or faculty. Accordingly, if you have any gripes or suggestions about our underfunded library or about our new library currently in the planning stage, please communicate them to me in the appropriate LSA mailbox - Stephen Lloyd, neighbourhood library representative.

COMPUTER COMMITTEE - The Computer

Committee has received a grant for the construction of two new computer labs. Fifteen new computers and two new laser printers will be purchased and located on the second floor of New Chancellor Day Hall. Another five computers and a laser printer will be bought and kept at 3661 Peel. All the computers will be on the McGill network. Construction of the new labs should be ready by early fall. The new labs will use WP 5.1 and students will be offered seminars in WP throughout the year. In January, all 2nd year students must attend tutorials on computer assisted legal research, including SOQUIJ and QUICKLAW. Recruiting of volunteers for the computer labs will take place in early September. If interested, please contact Daniel Shap at 489-3677.

DROIT CONSTITUTIONNEL - Le prof. de Mestral recherche 4 étudiant(e)s (3 francophones et 1 anglophone) pour agir comme responsables de tutoriels dans le cadre de ce cours: 1 heure/sem. + rencontre avec le prof. (2 crédits). Si intéressés, appelez le prof. de Mestral au 398-6643.

LSA/AED - First council meeting on Sept. 4, at 12:00 noon

Thank you

The LSA would like to thank Véronique Malka for all her efforts with the renovation of the student lounge and the painting of the mural.

McGILL GAGNE UN CONCOURS INTERNATIONAL

À chaque année, plusieurs étudiants de la Faculté participent à des concours de plaidoirie, dont le concours Charles-Rousseau en droit international public. L'équipe de McGill en 1991 était composée de Hélène Gagnon (BCL III), Bruce Johnston (LLB IV), Sophie Perreault (BCL III) et Caspar Landolt (gradué en 1991). Après avoir remporté l'étape nationale à Montréal le 15 mars dernier, l'équipe a affronté les meilleures équipes de Belgique, de France et de Suisse lors de l'étape internationale qui s'est tenue à Québec du 13 au 17 mai 1991. À cette occasion, l'équipe de McGill a remporté la victoire en finale contre l'Université Libre de Bruxelles. De plus, l'équipe a remporté le 2e prix pour ses mémoires, et Hélène Gagnon et Sophie Perreault ont reçu respectivement les 1er et 4e prix pour les meilleurs plaideurs individuels.

The McGill Law Journal/La Revue de Droit de McGill: So you want to be a rock and roll star?

par Hanson R. Hosein, Managing Editor/Directeur administratif (avec l'aide de/with the help of Éric Buzzetti, membre du Comité Senior)

In our annual search for prime **Journal** candidates, we are not looking for people seeking glory, fame or fodder for their resumé. Rather, we want candidates who know the meaning of commitment. We need fifteen people capable of translating their two-year pledge to the **Journal** into hard work, creative contribution and dedication. If you are one of these people, read on. If not, I have a few guitars to sell.

On September 6th, the **Journal** application process will begin. At this point, candidates will have until September 16th to evaluate an article and submit memoranda on various **Journal**-related questions. Candidates will then be interviewed near the end of the month, with a final decision being made in early October.

As you may know, the personnel at the **Journal** are divided into two groups. On the editorial side, there are eleven editors on each of the Senior and Associate Boards. As an associate editor, you will be involved in the solicitation, evaluation and editing of articles. You will check sources, contact authors and you will sweat. By the end of the year, you will have a good idea of what the **Journal** is all about, and will be prepared to be catapulted into the responsibility of senior editor for your second year.

From the management perspective, there are four positions for each respective Board. As an associate, you will assist the senior members in canvassing for advertisements, organizing the Alumni Lecture, maintaining the computers, and keeping the **Journal** solvent. You will also be involved in special management projects such as the solicitation of

Journal subscriptions in various target markets, analysis of various cost-reduction alternatives and the development of any ideas that may be produced by your creative mind. You will also have the opportunity if you so decide, to edit and evaluate articles. When you are finished with your first year of apprenticeship, you will be ready to assume your senior position of responsibility as you continue to fulfill your role as the lifeblood of the **Journal**.

Alors que cherchons-nous? Un candidat idéal pour un poste de rédaction saurait bien écrire le français et/ou l'anglais. La personne qui voudrait plutôt s'impliquer dans l'administration de la **Revue** devrait avoir un talent pour l'organisation. Nous désirons également au moins un candidat qui soit très habile avec les ordinateurs. Quel que soit le poste qui vous intéresse, vos projets pour les deux prochaines années doivent inclure la Faculté de droit de McGill et un horaire qui n'est pas trop chargé d'activités parascolaires. De plus, les candidat(e)s doivent être prêts à démontrer un dévouement proportionnel à l'objectif visé, i.e. produire la meilleure publication possible.

Que cherchez-vous? Etes-vous intéressé(e) à travailler dans l'une des revues les mieux cotées au Canada, qui maintient une réputation d'excellence, d'ouverture et d'originalité. Vous aimez l'idée que contrairement à plusieurs autres revues juridiques, notre équipe est composée uniquement d'étudiants et est indépendante de la Faculté. Le fait que la **Revue** maintienne l'un des plus importants tirages au Canada vous assure que votre travail rejoindra un très large public (85% des facultés de droit américaines sont d'ailleurs abonnées à la **Revue**, et même la Cour suprême des États-Unis a un abonnement!). La **Revue** aborde des sujets variés comme l'environnement, la réforme constitutionnelle, les autochtones, le droit des compagnies, la théorie

juridique, le droit international, etc..., tout en accordant une attention toute particulière à assurer le maintien de son caractère bilingue et bi-juridique. Enfin, il importe de mentionner que vous recevrez à la fin de votre deuxième année à la **Revue** une obole symbolique de deux à six crédits (selon le poste occupé) en retour du travail accompli.

Alors, si tout cela vous attire et si vous estimez que vous possédez les qualités requises, entrez en contact avec les membres actuels de la **Revue** dès que possible. Vous pouvez nous rencontrer à nos bureaux du 3661 Peel. Personnellement, j'aimerais être une vedette de rock... mais j'attendrai jusqu'en mai 1992, à la fin de mon stage à la **Revue**, pour me lancer dans une telle aventure!

QUID NOVI: DEADLINE/DATE DE TOMBÉE

The deadline for submissions to the Quid Novi for all year will be Mondays at 1:00 pm for publication on the following Monday. La date de tombée pour la soumission d'articles au Quid Novi sera, pour toute l'année, les lundis à 13h00 pour publication le lundi suivant.

The Heroes of our Age

by Stuart Chelin (graduated May 1991) (first published November 12, 1990)

The insidious effluvium of tripe rushing forth from our television sets douses each of us for more hours a week than we care to admit. And from the major U.S. networks we find characters with whom we identify and whom we emulate. It is uncertain to what degree our entrenched values dictate to corporate executives what we like to see and to what extent T.V. characters influence our own behaviour. But let's face it, after years of listening to the battles waged between diametric ideals - like that corrective/distributive claptrap - who cares? Suffice it to say, the characters most popular to us serve as an indication of our collective psychosocial make-up. So why are we paying such great attention to the hero of «thirtysomething» while almost completely ignoring Gilligan?

If we choose to opt into modern urban society we will necessarily face situations which force us to make difficult decisions amidst the confusion of various rationales and emotions. Such day-to-day living leaves Michael Steadman overwrought and despondent. Yet, Gilligan, marooned on a tiny island with five morons and an uptight egghead was never heard to whine even once. Steadman is a complainer, Gilligan an admirable Stoic.

In one particular episode, Michael

grappled with the dilemma of having to accept a job from a man he absolutely despised. As soon as Hope reminded him of the nutritional requirements of his racially-mixed little daughter, his integrity folded like the Blue Jays in a pennant race. Had I been on that island, from the moment of realizing the slim chance of ever being found, I would have first slaughtered the Skipper and the Professor. Next I would have warned Thurston Howell that if he so much as looked at the girls I would stuff hundreds down his throat until he burst like the Mike Milken dream laden debt bubble of the eighties. Off to paradise with Ginger and Marianne I would go. However, on not a single occasion did Gilligan succumb to the ample opportunities for satisfying his basic human needs. Presumably, Gilligan never indulged because he loved neither woman with the truest of his heart. What an outstanding show of integrity. Steadman, meanwhile, is a weak Peter Heatingesque hypocrite.

Michael Steadman is a coward. Faced with the task of entering a synagogue after an absence of many years, he sits frozen in his crappy little Volvo. Unable to inform his best friend of a promotion, he remains motionless for days. «If not for the courage of the fearless crew, the Minnow would be lost, the Minnow would be lost...».

It is an inevitability that in our working lives we will run up against individuals,

usually our superiors, whose personal styles we find irritating. This is the nature of employment. Yet Steadman incessantly engages his boss in immature confrontations designed to assuage his frail ego's inability to handle the fact that Miles is more on the commercial ball. Then, wracked with feelings of inadequacy, he tries to usurp the very man who tolerates his disobedience and keeps him employed. Gilligan, on the other hand, while laboriously constructing bamboo shaft goods and ferrying coconut-laden meals to the others, endures atrocities at the hands of the Skipper, which would amount to flagrant violations of any modern labour code. Who can forget the merciless cap-whippings dished out to Gilligan for even the slightest gaffe? Gilligan, however, engaged in the appropriate pride-swallowing necessary during the course of employment. He took the fact of being an employee as a man. He never took pot-shots at the cro-magnon intelligence or appalling obesity of the Skipper. Gilligan persistently displayed the loyalty expected of a first mate towards his captain.

Shouldn't we all be aspiring to maturity, loyalty, integrity, courage and a proper lever of stoicism in the face of adverse, unchangeable conditions? If we must choose the odd hero from the tube, perhaps more care should be taken. Let's have a few more Gilligans and a little less Michael Steadmans.

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One of Seven who Failed: The Careers Day Aftermath

by Michael Kleinman, LLB IV (first published January 28th 1991)

For 1st-year McGill law student Scotty Stevenson, the new year had started miserably. Stevenson, who hails from a small town in northern Florida, went home over the Christmas break. On December 31st, anticipating the neighbourhood bash at Peter's Hog House, Scotty explained to his doting mother that of his five exams, he thought he «aced» only one - Constitutional Law.

Back in Montréal, Scotty (whose acquaintances refer to simply as «Scotty») participated in some sort of Quiet Revolution and refused to attend classes on the first two days of the semester. Scotty became rather indignant when asked to comment: «Well, how do you explain the administration's decision to start the semester on a Thursday?».

In any event, Scotty Stevenson strode confidently into the faculty, remembering which door to pull and which to push. After only three tries (a personal best), Scotty went downstairs and looked. The result? One «B+», three «B»s and - horror of horrors - and «F» - Constitutional Law! Scott could not believe his eyes and declared, at least initially, that he would dissociate himself entirely from his grade, and that if his professor insisted, then the Dean would have to drive the message home personally - over Scott's dead body (figuratively speaking, of course).

Scotty was crushed, but there was nothing he could do, except buckle down and work at a feverish pace. By Careers Day, he was ahead in all his courses. Unidentified sources have confirmed that Scotty has been seen consulting «several» or «more than one» Quashnock summaries simultaneously. It is said that Scotty got his outlandish idea when he overheard a Cool Monsoon

singing «We Didn't Read the Casebook» in the washroom. After familiarizing himself with Peter Hoffman's «Guide», Scotty dabbed some cologne behind his ears and went job hunting.

The ensuing period is a hazy one for all concerned. Scott landed a job with a prestigious firm in Tallahassee, Florida - not far from his parents' place. Scotty rapidly became one of the hardest working summer clerks that Marks, Chevrolette had ever hired. Absorbed in his work, Scotty became somewhat of a recluse. Not much had been heard from him until recently, when this story appeared in the North Florida Bar Association's (N.F.B.A.) weekly publication.

«Scotty Stevenson, a research gopher at Marks, Chevrolette, was institutionalized by state mental health authorities last week when he was found laughing uncontrollably in the local Land Registry Office. Stevenson had been asked by senior partner Fayling Marks to draft an important speech which Marks was to give at the N.F.B.A.'s annual meeting, entitled «Legal Ethics, Billable Hours and You». Marks told Stevenson that he had only 30 hours to prepare and type the speech. Stevenson realized, however, that it was his anniversary and he had plans to see Les Misérables. Marks insisted that he saw no obstacle whatsoever and that the speech was to be on his desk by Monday at 9 a.m. sharp - no ifs, ands or buts. «But, sir...». «Monday morning. Thank you, that is all.» Practically in tears, Scotty promised to make it up to his wife. After 30 hours of careful, painstaking legal research and writing, the speech was neatly typed and placed on Marks' desk. On Monday, Marks waltzed into the office at 4 p.m., slipped the speech into his briefcase, and hurried over to the golf course, hoping to finish the front nine before delivering his

speech to some two thousand attorneys. Marks had not even glanced cursorily at the text as he approached the podium. The speech went superbly; Stevenson had crafted an excellent piece which rose and fell from one legal crescendo to the next, mesmerizing the audience with the pros and cons of alternative practice management theories as they relate to modern legal ethics and a fast-paced career in the law. Marks practically shouted the bottom paragraph on the next-to-last page: «And so, ladies and gentlemen, it is only with a great deal of reflection and study that we may draw our own conclusions about this terribly important, pressing matter. In sum, may I say that in my own practice, and from a personal point of view, the best way to solve the majority of problems facing the legal profession today are...». Marks flipped the page, flashed a gallant smile at his audience, and stared at the bold, capital letters on the page: «IMPROVISE YOUR SONOFABITCH».

Green Space: Thinking Green

Thinking «green» doesn't come about easily. This is why the Environmental Law Association decided that it was worth the time and money to try and demonstrate this orientation week that it doesn't take too much effort to be environmentally conscientious. We are renting reusable glasses and dishes for a couple of the orientation parties, and we are selling reusable beer mugs with which people can receive a discount off beer at orientation activities as well as for coffee in the cafeteria and at future Coffee Houses. There are now blue boxes around the faculty in which you can place your fine paper to be recycled, and you can also recycle pop cans in the law school cafeteria and glass in the Student Union Building cafeteria.

En noir et black: «East End Dame»

By Frank Tamburro (graduated May 1991) (first published September 11, 1990)

My head was pounding. Jackhammers behind each eye. Probably too much bourbon the night before. It didn't matter. I had a job to do. I swallowed a couple of aspirins as I walked down the stairs of the Student Union Building. I spotted the door of B-20, with the brochures standing outside. The Legal Information Clinic. You've probably figured out what I am by now. But let me introduce myself.

My name is Dan Wade. I'm a McGill law student.

I walked into the office. I was a couple of minutes early, so the other two volunteers for this shift weren't in yet. That was okay. I didn't mind a little time alone. Solitude was my pillow.

I stripped off my trenchcoat, hung up my fedora and wiped the sweat off my forehead. It was 85 degrees outside — but no sense taking chances. I sat down, leaned back and put my feet up on the desk. The phones were mostly dead. I put a cigarette in my mouth, found some matches in a pocket. I took a quick swallow of the java. It was hot! Good. I'm the kind of Joe who knows there's only one way to drink coffee: with two milks and a packet of artificial sweetener. I preferred Sugar Twin, but I would settle for Sweet 'N Low.

Suddenly there was this dame at the door! But she was no ordinary dame. She had legs; legs that went all the way up to her hips! She was dressed all in black. She had gorgeous blonde hair falling just below her shoulders. Her bumps were in all the right places! An Expos' cap was sitting on her head. You could have knocked me over with a feather. I said a silent prayer of thanks that of all the legal clinics in all the towns in all the world, she walked into mine.

I straightened up. The goddess spoke. «Please, m'sieu, can you help me?» she said with a French accent.

«Sure, dollface», I answered in French, «take

a load off.» She sat down. I wiped the drool off my chin.

«Oh, thank you very much, but please, for my own reasons, I would like to conduct our business in English.»

«It's your nickel, sweetheart.»

«I need some legal advice», she said.

I interrupted her. «Sorry sister, but I'm not a professional shyster yet. I can only give you information and suggestions.»

«Okay, but maybe you can help me anyway. My name is Cécile Gouin. I live on St-Michel street. Last month, I threw out my common-law husband Jacques Palmaire. We had lived together for three years. I loved him, but I kicked him out when I found out about his other women. Still ...» Her voice trailed off wistfully.

While she talked, I gave her the once-over. Twice over. Over and over. She was a real looker! The kind you'd ask to sit in your lap while you were still standing up.

«I just found out yesterday that he has taken \$100,000 of my money. It was from my Select 42 jackpot. I have his address. I want you to sue him for me.»

«Why don't you just sic the heat on him?» I asked.

«No, no police! I love Jacques so badly. I don't want him to go to jail. I just want my money back to care for mes enfants! Can you help me?»

«I'm not a lawyer,» I replied. «I can't represent you. You'll have to find a real lawyer to take the case.»

«Oh, but m'sieu,» she pleaded, grabbing my hand across the desk. «I cannot afford a lawyer, and legal aid says they will not take this kind of case. I have nowhere else to go. You must help me!» She looked at me with lots of meaning in her eyes. «I would be very grateful.»

Her skirt had slid up a couple of inches, giving me a better view of those gams. I leaned in close to her kisser. «Tell me something, sister,» I whispered. «What part of Etobicoke were you born in?»

The message was gone from her eyes. Absolute hate and contempt came into them. She stood up in a blinding rage and squawked loud enough for the campus to hear, «I've never been to Etobicoke in my life!!!» The French accent was history!

Instantly, she knew the game was up. She sank back into her chair. The rage slowed from her body like rinse down a dentist's spit-sink!

I chuckled. «All you nearly gotta do is mention Etobicoke to get a rise out of a Rosedale snob. Right, doll?» I stubbed out the cigarette I hadn't lit.

She was confused, exasperated. Finally she spoke, «How did you figure me out?» The cultivated snoot of Toronto society came through loud and clear, like thumbtacks through cellophane.

«Common-law husband!», I sneered. «Listen, sweetheart, every two-bit hood in Hampstead knows there's no such thing in Quebec. The closest we got is de facto union, what polite people call shacking up. Obviously, you're an Osgoode Hall graduate who's a little too clever and who's a little too sure of a body that just won't quit.»

«You're good, Wade,» she said quietly.

«That's what I'm paid for, angel.» I got up and walked around as I explained. «Besides, that name of yours — Cecile Gouin — awfully close to Cecilia Gwynn, great-granddaughter maybe of Cecil Gwynn, founder and first president of the Rosedale Extra-Snooty Golf and Croquet Club. Jacques Palmaire could easily be James Palmer. As for the lottery - saying Select 42 may have been smart, but I don't run into nobody who plays that instead of 6/49. But you still might have pulled the wool over my eyes, except for one thing.»

«What was it?» she asked.

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Con'd from p.6

«That Expos' cap,» I pointed to her head. «Nobody over the age of six wears those dorky things in this town.» She looked at her feet in embarrassment. «Okay, spill the rest of the real story, dollface.»

«You've figured out most of it,» she said. The snoot was real pronounced. «Palmer is four months late with his membership dues to the club. I am the club's solicitor and I was sent to secure the services of a barrister to launch an action here, where he lives. I thought I might save the club some money by arranging for a less expensive representative if I used the proper ... inducements.»

«And that's where I came in,» I added. «You thought a desperate, glittering femme could get me to be her mouthpiece.»

«Yes. You know,» she cooed, as the meaning came back into her face, «I could still engage your services. If you're ... interested ... we could come to some sort of ... arrangement. Hmmm?». Her smile was unmistakable. Her legs were irresistible. It was almost unavoidable! This was becoming a Robert Palmer song.

«Sorry, sweetheart, I can't and I won't. The Bar Act is very clear. I don't know how many others came before me, but I won't play the sap for you.» I paused. I spat on the floor. Then the contempt crept into my voice. «Why don't you try Ogilvy Renault? They're made for people like you!».

The hatred returned to her eyes. This time, she grabbed her bag, got up and left without a word. I watched her walk out. Maybe she thought I didn't know what I was missing. But I knew. Tonight, I'd be running out of bourbon... and into cold showers.

TYPIST/DACTYLO

The Quid Novi is looking for a typist who can type fast! Salary is \$8,00/hour, and usually involves 3-5 hours per week. Person has to be available on Monday afternoon/evening or Tuesday during the day.

ORIENTATION WEEK ACTIVITIES

Wednesday Sept. 4:

Clubs Day (12-2 pm on lawn/in Pit): Pizza & beer. Get involved in a club or association!

Mature Students' Reception: 12-2 pm in the Common Room.

Law Partners' Party (8 pm at Thomson House): Come and meet your law partner in a «jeopardizing» way!

Thursday Sept. 5:

The Dean's Reception is now called The Students' Welcome Reception (hosted by the Dean). New name, same party. The BBQ and drinks will start at 5 pm on the lawn. The dancing will take place in the new student lounge. Don't miss the big bash!

Friday Sept. 6:

Sports Day: Find your way to the reservoir

(across from Thomson House) any time after 11 am and join professors and other students in a variety of sports (soccer, softball, frisbee, etc...). For athletes and spectators alike.

Tuesday Sept. 10:

Tutorial Dinner (\$11) (for first-year students only): Please buy your tickets from your tutorial leaders as soon as possible.

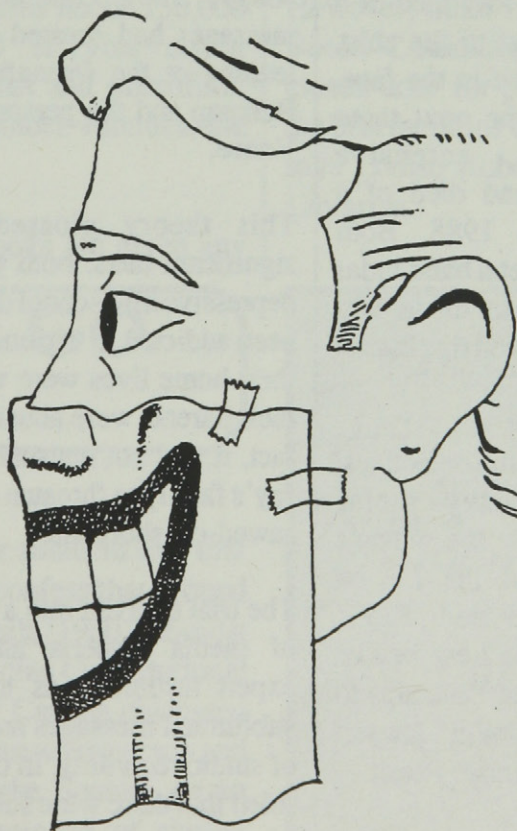
Wednesday Sept. 11:

We strongly encourage all students to participate in the annual Pub Crawl. Sign up in teams of 4 in the Pit before 7 pm. If you left your running shoes at home, you can meet up with the crawlers at 8 pm at Déjà Vu (1224 Bishop), where Bowser & Blue will be providing live entertainment. Don't miss the final event!

The Pits: Coming Back

by Arnold Bornstein, Nat. IV

«Whatever I do this year, I'm coming in with a positive attitude. All my classes will be good. Nothing will bore me. I will never be cynical. I will definitely not ever complain. Yes, I vow that come September 3rd, I'll be smiling a smile that lasts until May.» *



*Of course, if you're here for the first time, your smile is real.

Metal on Trial

by Julie Godin (graduated May 1991)
(first published September 18, 1990)

"I was born to sue," declares Reno lawyer Ken McKenna when interviewed by reporters. This man is hoping that the field of "heavy-metal litigation" is going to heat up in the near future: he believes that the suggestive power of music is so undesirable that an adverse reaction to a certain song can give rise to product liability litigation. We have all seen the warning labels advising listeners of the dangerous content of a recording.

However, it seems we can now turn to the creators and "manufacturers" of a song for compensation if the music causes injury. Since when, you ask, does music "cause injury?"

Consider the case of Jay Vance and Ray Belknap. On December 23rd, 1985, the two young men made a suicide pact and attempted to carry it out. Ray died of a self-inflicted shotgun blast to the chin, while Jay also shot himself in the face, but survived. He spent the next three years undergoing extensive reconstructive surgery, and died of a methadone overdose in 1988. Both young men were fans of metal band Judas Priest, and had listened to the album Stained Glass several times on that fateful night.

After the shooting, one of the detectives, who had read anti-heavy metal pamphlets warning against the music's satanist message, noticed the LP on Ray's turntable and advised Ray's mother as to its significance. Lawyer Ken McKenna was hired by the Belknaps to launch a multi-million-dollar lawsuit against CBS records and Judas Priest.

The trial itself was a bizarre collection of surreal and melodramatic moments to

rival the action in Twin Peaks: lead singer Bob Halford gave a capella renditions of his songs on the witness stand, local born again Christians and metal fans mobbed the group, and strange "expert witnesses" of dubious credentials were called (including one psychologist who could recite "Jabberwocky" backwards).

At first, the case seemed to be hopeless, since a California District Court of Appeal had already ruled in a similar case that the Ozzy Osbourne song "Suicide Solution" was protected by the First Amendment.

Nevertheless, the plaintiffs' lawyers chose to explore the uncharted depths of the unconscious, and on the advice of subliminal message expert Dr. Wilson Bryan Key, examined the Judas Priest album. Surprise! They found subliminal commands in the form of a voice exhorting, "Do it!" in one of the LP's songs. They concluded that these messages had created a "compulsion" leading to the wrongful death of Ray Belknap and the personal injury of Jay Vance.

This theory glossed over a few significant facts: both young men were depressive highschool dropouts, and had been addicted to various drugs for years, their home lives were very violent, and their parents were abusive alcoholics. In fact, it was not unusual for members of Jay's family to threaten one another with sawed-off shotguns.

The trial evolved into a three-ring circus of media hysteria and contradictory expert testimony as to the effects of subliminal messages and the techniques of studio recording. In the end, the Court ruled that there were subliminal "Do its" in the song, and that the plaintiffs had established the effectiveness of

subliminal messages. However, it was deemed that other factors could explain the extreme behaviour of the two young men. Nevertheless, the plaintiffs' lawyers feel that the judgment has given congressional committees and state legislatures enough reason to investigate the effect of music on young people. The very notion that artists should be held responsible for the adverse effects caused by their creations is simplistic to the point of absurdity. Are we to believe that young people's minds are so malleable that they will accept any suggestion, no matter how extreme, without question?

This reasoning comes from the same people who claim that sexual education causes promiscuity. It is a blatant denial of all the social causes and motivation for behaviour: instead of taking responsibility for the examples they set, parents and educators blame that evil rock and roll music for everything from drug abuse to human sacrifice. There is no doubt that some people will react particularly strongly to certain stimuli. However, if we admit that the artists should be responsible for the way disturbed individuals interpret their work, there is no end to possible litigation.

Should Martin Scorsese be sued because William Hinckley Jr. took Taxi Driver a little too seriously?

Should Yoko Ono get compensation from J.D. Salinger for having written the novel that sent Mark David Chapman over the edge?

The ramifications of this notion of responsibility can only lead to the scapegoating of artists and the denial of